

December 22, 2008

Kenneth Sikora, Jr.
Environmental Programs Manager
Federal Highway Administration
PO Box 568
Montpelier, VT 05601

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement Middlebury Spur Project, Addison County, Vermont
(CEQ #20070181)

Dear Mr. Sikora:

The Environmental Protection Agency-New England Region (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the construction of the Middlebury Rail Spur project in Middlebury, Vermont.

The proposed action described in the FEIS is consistent with that described in the DEIS. Namely work necessary to provide for the safe and efficient transportation of freight to and from Middlebury, Vermont.

EPA's comments on the DEIS focused on concerns related to air quality and wetland impacts. We appreciate FHWA's efforts to respond to our comments and concerns in the FEIS. While we have no objections to the project, we continue to strongly recommend the adoption of measures to reduce fine particle emissions from diesel engines and we are willing to work with FHWA and the Vermont Agency of Transportation to help with that effort.

Please contact Timothy Timmermann (617-918-1025) of EPA's Office of Environmental Review with any comments or questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Elizabeth A. Higgins, Director
Office of Environmental Review